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Rural District of Warwick

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1956

BY

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OF THE

Warwickshire Combined Districts

Leamington Spa



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1957



38, HOLLY WALK,
LEAMINGTON SPA.

January, 1957.

To the Council of the Rural District of Warwick.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my seventh report on the health of your district, and regret that personal illness has delayed its publication. The population has risen by almost 1,800 heads and most of the increase was due to immigration.

Caravan Sites.

The earlier history of Seaton's Field Site at Burton Green has been described in previous reports. In May 1956 the Council served abatement notices upon the owner under the Public Health Act, 1936. These referred to specific matters causing statutory nuisance and called upon her within six weeks to

- (a) remove all caravans and moveable dwellings from the site,
- (b) not to bring . . . any caravans on to the site without consent of Warwick Rural District Council.
- (c) cease the use of all shacks and all other erections now on the said site for human habitation.

These notices met with the same fate as previous ones and the nuisances were not remedied. Instead the owner accommodated new families in rapid succession, brought back into use land previously fouled and cleared and almost doubled the numbers on the site. A check about mid-summer showed that 33 school children and 70 pre-school children inhabited this site, and several other babies were expected almost at once. The Council then took the case before the magistrates in September 1956, and secured an order in these terms: 37 dwellings to be removed by October 1st 1956, and the remaining vans or shacks to be cleared away within two years from that date. It was further ordered by their worships that (a) no fresh vans or shacks were to be erected (b) dwellings vacated should be removed and not reoccupied and (c) the defendant to pay 20 guineas costs. The first part of the clearance was made possible by the co-operative attitude of the Coventry Corporation which agreed to allot 13

houses and 24 berths on licensed caravan sites, by the end of September 1956, so as to speed the removal of families on their housing list from the site. A further ten families were to be accommodated within the next six months. The remainder of the families will eventually be housed on estates under development by the Warwick Rural District Council at Bishops Tachbrook, Radford Semele and Leek Wootton.

Public Cleansing.

The need for improvements to this service was outlined in last year's report. Matters came to a head in September 1956 after a series of tip fires had caused annoyance. A meeting of interested parties at Cubbington tip was followed by an inspection in December by the full committee. Here it became clear that the sum provided in current estimates would not be enough even to maintain the status quo. The Council decided to put the dump in proper order forthwith and to continue thereafter by controlled tipping. A crawler tractor was ordered and arrangements put on hand for top covering materials and for better shelter for men working on the tip. At this visit the Committee saw in operation the salvage of scrap metals and baling on site by a contractor.

Drainage, etc.

Complaints were again received about the condition of the Pingle Brook, Cubbington, and it was decided to accept responsibility for clearing out part of its course. Nuisance proceedings were taken against the occupier of the premises at Lapworth arising out of discharge of drainage upon adjoining land.

Arrangements jointly with Meriden R.D.C. were continued whereby the consulting engineers were at work upon the scheme to sewer Burton Green by a connection to the city sewerage system of Coventry.

Evidence was prepared for the public enquiry as to the proposals for sewerage Leek Wootton. Representations were also received from Shrewley Parish Council as to an amended scheme for that area which was to have formed part of a large comprehensive scheme for the Western Area but had failed to secure the Minister's approval.

Clean Air.

New legislation promised to increase the duties of all local authorities in regard to the abatement of atmospheric pollution. The Council received therefore with interest an

invitation to participate in meetings to discuss the formation of a Warwickshire Clean Air Council.

General.

The Council has decided to put into operation section 86 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act of 1907 which provides for the registration of dealers in old metal.

The decision was also taken to circulate to food traders information as to the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations of 1955. These do not seemingly apply to hospital catering for which "crown property" exemption may be claimed as in the matter of smoke nuisances. This is of interest in view of the report within upon a hospital outbreak of food poisoning. In my opinion greater help could have been given by the Council's Officers had the close links developed during these enquiries been forged well in advance of the unfortunate incident. Trouble may occur even in the best of establishments; when it does time has to be spent in making personal contacts and in studying the layout and organisation. Given prior knowledge of the personnel, methods and equipment in each catering establishment no time need be lost at the start of any investigation. Also it is probable that when officers are personally known to a management, they will be informed sooner if and when it is suspected that something is amiss or will be able at routine visits to make informal suggestions for alterations and improvements. This will be a more pleasant process than procedure by a formal report only at times of some crisis which has become front page news. It is clear however that the choice does not lie with the local authority or its officers as to this relationship.

One greatly regrets to record the death of Councillor the Reverend A. S. Dodds, who, as member for Hatton, had given good service to the Health Committee for a number of years.

In conclusion I must thank sincerely the members and officers of the Council for the understanding and help which they have once again given to me in my work and for their support at times of especial difficulty.

I am your obedient servant,

D. LIVINGSTONE,

Medical Officer of Health.

A. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

| | | | |
|---|----------------|-----|--------|
| Population (estimated) Mid-year, 1956 | ... | ... | 22,360 |
| Birth Rate per 1,000 population (Crude) | ... | ... | 16 |
| „ „ „ (Corrected) | ... | ... | 16 |
| Still Birth Rate—Rate per 1,000 total births | .. | .. | 24.6 |
| Death Rate per 1,000 population (Crude) | ... | ... | 15.3 |
| „ „ „ (Corrected) | ... | ... | 11.0 |
| Deaths from Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy and Child-birth | From Sepsis | ... | — |
| | „ other causes | ... | — |
| Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :— | | | |
| All Infants per 1,000 live births | ... | ... | 11.2 |
| Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births | | | 11.6 |
| Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births | ... | ... | — |
| Deaths from Measles (all ages) | ... | ... | — |
| „ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) | ... | ... | — |
| „ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) | ... | ... | — |

Population.—The estimated mid-year population rose by almost 1,800 persons. This was due mainly to new entrants to the district since the year's total of deaths was almost the same as that of births.

Infantile Mortality.—This fell from 57 in 1949 to 25.2 per 1,000 live births in 1951. The present year's low rate is very satisfactory.

Details of statistics for the past few years are given in Table II.

B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Public Health Officers.

Senior Public Health Inspector.

E. ARTHUR LYNE,¹ Cert. Sanitary Inspector,
Cert. Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

Additional Public Health Inspectors.

R. H. SHORT, Cert. Public Health Inspector.

A. ROWE, " " (Resigned 15/7/56)

W. R. SMITH, ,, ,, ,, ,,
Clerk. (Appointed 1/8/56)

Miss J. MAHER.

2. (a) *Laboratory Facilities*.—Bacteriological examinations by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Coventry :—

| | | Positive | | Negative | | Total |
|---------------|-----|----------|-----|----------|-----|-------|
| Diphtheria | ... | — | ... | 3 | ... | 3 |
| Tuberculosis | ... | — | ... | — | ... | — |
| Dysentery | ... | 2 | ... | 19 | ... | 21 |
| Paratyphoid B | ... | — | ... | — | ... | — |
| | | | | | | — |
| | | | | | | 24 |
| | | | | | | — |

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) *Water*.—The extent of new building at Whitnash had put the existing bore under a severe strain and it was no longer possible to afford a relief supply to Radford Semele. In this latter parish both council and private building development led to increased use of water with the result that water pumped from the bore became highly mineral. It was arranged to draw a relief supply from Leamington Borough via the existing link main but the pressure was insufficient to feed the higher part of the village. Accordingly negotiations were begun with Southam Rural District Council for a temporary supply to be drawn from their link main with Leamington at a point above the village.

A public enquiry was held at Rowington Village Hall on 5th September and there was evidently widespread support for the Council's proposals to supply the Western parishes with mains water. However, sharp opposition developed against that part of the proposed scheme which related to the erection of two elevated water towers. These were thought to be essential in order to ensure proper distribution in the mains system but the Council promised to re-examine this part of their scheme. At the enquiry evidence was given as to the high degree of sewage pollution of wells in these parishes and as to the necessity for a link main to Barford in order to augment the Council's hard-pressed supply from Whitnash.

Leek Wootton.

A pumping test was applied to the new borehole and a yield of 3,600 g.p.h. was secured of potable water. This was judged to be a satisfactory output although it fell far short of what it had been hoped to obtain.

The public supplies with the exception of Shrewley tend to be somewhat hard: there is no known plumbo-solvent

activity and no instance occurred of pollution requiring any official action. This is, of course, not so in regard to private wells and many owners received advice as to the cleaning out of wells, temporary boiling of drinking water, etc.

Public mains now supply 3,900 houses out of the total of 6,300.

Drainage and Sewerage.—A public enquiry was held at the Village Hall, Leek Wootton, on October 5th, 1956. Evidence was presented on behalf of the Council as to the defective condition of many of the old village drains and as to doubts existing regarding the course of some of these. Account was also given of the nuisance caused by the fouling of ditches adjoining the main highway and discharging to the River Avon not far above Guy's Cliffe Mill. It was apparent that housing development may follow a sewerage scheme on a scale big enough to alter the character of the village. This is a problem that other small parishes may have to face with the cost of public works at its present high level.

D. HOUSING

The following summary only need be given of the work done under the various Housing Acts during 1956. Other aspects will be covered by the periodic returns which the Council furnishes to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

(a) *Individual Houses.*

| | | |
|---|--------|---|
| Subject to Demolition orders | ... | 2 |
| Subject to Closing orders | ... .. | — |
| Unfit houses made fit following notices | ... | — |

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--------|---|
| (b) <i>Clearance Orders</i> made | ... .. | 1 |
| „ „ confirmed | ... .. | 1 |

(c) *Certificates of Disrepair.*

| | | |
|------------------------|--------|---|
| Applications for | ... .. | — |
| Number granted | ... .. | — |
| Certificates cancelled | ... .. | — |

2. *Overcrowding.*—No occasion arose which made necessary action under Part IV of the Housing Act, 1936.

3. The following table, excluding the last column, shows the first instalment of the Housing Programme which was prepared in 1945. The last column shows the progress up to December, 1956.

| | | <i>T.</i> | <i>S.</i> | <i>P.</i> | Completed (Dec. 1956) |
|--|-----|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------|
| Bishops Tachbrook ... | ... | 10 | — | 76 | 72 |
| Whitnash ... | ... | 10 | — | 40 | 98 |
| Radford Semele ... | ... | 10 | 4 | 72 | 50 |
| Offchurch ... | ... | — | — | 16 | — |
| Hunningham ... | ... | — | — | 18 | — |
| Eathorpe ... | ... | — | — | 8 | — |
| Weston-under- Wetherly ... | ... | — | — | 8 | 8 |
| Cubbington ... | ... | 10 | — | 103 | 140 |
| Baginton ... | ... | — | — | 24 | 44 |
| Stoneleigh ... | ... | — | 2 | 36 | 40 |
| Ashow ... | ... | — | — | 4 | — |
| Old Milverton ... | ... | — | — | 6 | — |
| Leek Wootton ... | ... | — | — | 22 | — |
| Wasperton, Barford and Sherbourne ... | ... | — | — | 52 | 28 |
| Norton Lindsey ... | ... | — | — | 8 | — |
| Budbrooke ... | ... | — | — | 18 | — |
| Hatton ... | ... | — | — | 30 | — |
| Shrewley ... | ... | — | 2 | 8 | 10 |
| Lowsonford ... | ... | — | 2 | 15 | 12 |
| Rowington ... | ... | — | — | 20 | — |
| Lapworth ... | ... | — | — | 16 | 22 |
| Lapworth (Wharf Lane) ... | ... | — | — | 12 | — |
| Baddesley Clinton ... | ... | — | — | 8 | 8 |
| Beausale ... | ... | — | 2 | 12 | 12 |
| Totals ... | ... | 40 | 12 | 632 | 544 |

T. Temporary. *S.* Swedish. *P.* Permanent.

4. *Fitness of Houses.*—Little progress has yet been possible upon the clearance of unfit property. This programme must take the heavy new load which the Council has to bear as its share in rehousing residents at the unlicensed caravan site in Burton Green, Stoneleigh. This has resulted from an order made by the Kenilworth magistrates following the failure of the site owner to abate statutory nuisances.

E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Meat Inspection.—Three slaughterhouses are licensed in the district and are well separated in point of distance.

This makes the achievement of 100 per cent. inspection in practice a harder matter than the bare figures would suggest. A tabular statement of meat inspected and/or condemned appears in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

Food Hygiene.—One prosecution was undertaken by the Council, in respect of a retail grocery store of which the proprietor had in 1952 been fined after similar proceedings brought by this Council. Despite this example conditions had remained far from satisfactory and the Council's Inspectors were unable to secure any promise or performance of real improvements. In fact they were received with abuse and at times obstructed so that a magistrate's warrant was obtained to enter the shop on 2nd October. After this information was laid and a hearing obtained in the petty sessional court upon the following allegations against the owner :—

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Section 8. Exposure for sale of unfit food.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

- Reg. 5 (a) Insanitary Premises used for food business ;
- (b) Exposing food to risk of contamination.
- Reg. 6 Failing to keep articles and equipment clean.
- Reg. 8 Failing to take reasonable steps to protect food from contamination.
- Reg. 9 Whilst handling food she did not keep
 - (a) her person and
 - (b) her clothing clean.

The magistrates found that the charges made had been proved and convicted the defendant, imposing fines totalling £84 with £10 costs.

Food Poisoning.—Information was received from the Nuneaton Borough Health Department on the morning of February 23rd that some 30 diners (including civic figures) had been ill after a dinner there on the night of February 21st attended by over 150 persons. The dinner was held in a hall where a pre-cooked meal was warmed up and served by an outside caterer having business premises within your district. A visit was paid at once and it was apparent that, despite previous warnings, the condition of both the premises and equipment were still well below a satisfactory standard. The meal served at Nuneaton on February 21st had the following courses :—

- (1) Clear Soup.
- (2) Roast beef, boiled potatoes, cabbage and/or carrots.
- (3) Sherry Trifle with whipped cream, custard or jam.

The meat was obtained from a local butcher, having a licensed slaughterhouse, on February 18th and frozen until the evening of February 20th when it was thawed. It was roasted during the 21st February; certain joints were boned and left to cool in warm gravy. Soup stock was made by boiling these bones and thickening with a proprietary soup powder. The soup was conveyed to the dinner in an electric domestic wash boiler which had been used the day before for the family's laundry: it had much of the inner plating missing thus exposing the metallic copper. Trifles were prepared individually at Nuneaton from fresh ingredients except for the custard which was prepared about four to five hours before and taken in a container. It seems that both the meat and custard were inadequately cooled before or during conveyance.

Samples were obtained :—

- (a) of a mixture of the left over soup and gravy ;
- (b) of the custard film remaining in the insulated container ;
- (c) of the soup and gravy powders, sponge cakes and jam used ;
- (d) of bread rolls.

The affected diners experienced pains and diarrhoea between 5 and 8 a.m. on February 22nd: the illness was of a moderately severe type, clearing up in 24 to 48 hours. An employee and members of the caterer's family ate the residue of the meat warmed up for dinner on February 22nd and it would appear that at least two of them had some intestinal upset afterwards.

Specimens were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory and profuse growth of heat-resistant, spore-forming, anaerobic bacteria was obtained from the Gravy-soup mixture; similar organisms were grown from the faeces of the caterer and her daughter (the cook), and of several affected diners.

These organisms were identified as *Clostridium Welchii* which is a common cause of food poisoning outbreaks where

cooked meat dishes have been improperly handled or stored before service. It produces symptoms which could correspond in timing and severity with those reported by the affected diners. It seems probable therefore that the meat and/or gravy was toxic and gave rise to the trouble. As a precaution however the food handlers were invited to submit faecal specimens for examination. An inspection was also made of the shop and licensed slaughterhouse of the meat supplier and a sample of his well water sent for analysis. The slaughterhouse, though licensed had inadequate facilities owing to the age and type of buildings and the absence of main services. The well water showed pollution with non-faecal coliform organisms.

The caterer undertook to stop the outside service of hot meals and to put in hand at once improvements to the shop and premises and to purchase new equipment so as to comply with the Food Hygiene Regulations becoming operative in July 1956. The Council therefore decided, in view of the anxiety and loss of trade which had been experienced, that no good purpose would be served by court proceedings and a warning only was issued.

Notification was received on 8th March 1956 that 45 suspected cases of Food Poisoning had occurred at a hospital on 4th March 1956, among female patients and that there had been several deaths on 5th March, 1956. Post-mortem examinations carried out disclosed that two women aged 72 and 82 years had died of acute inflammation of the stomach and intestines, presumably caused by a micro organism known as *Staphylococcus Aureus* (Pyogenes). On 9th March, 1956 Sanitary Inspectors made a detailed inspection of the main hospital kitchen and of washing-up facilities on the affected wards. They investigated the dietary and were able to exclude the possibility of infection of brawn (served on the evening of 3rd March 1956) or icecream (on 4th March 1956). The only item which fell under suspicion was minced meat prepared from (a) left-overs of mutton—served to the hospital on 4th March 1956, for lunch and (b) a small quantity of cooked ox cheek. This was minced on the morning of 4th March 1956 by cook (B), but the meat had been roasted two days before and had stood on shelves in an open larder. It was thus not protected from unauthorized access and was stored at a temperature which would have allowed toxin production had one or more of the joints become contaminated. Owing to heat from the adjoining kitchens and bakery the day temperature was found to be 49.5 deg. F. when the out-

side air was at 40 deg. F. On 3rd and 4th March mid-day air temperatures were 50 deg. F. and 52 deg. F. and so the air in the larder would have been approx. 56 deg.-60 deg. F., which is well above the critical temperature of 50 deg. F., below which *Staphylococcus Aureus* forms little or no poison.

No food residues of any kind were available for examination. It was decided therefore to focus suspicion on the minced meat which had been sent to six female wards only, including the three wards affected. No food handlers had had any septic skin, or throat conditions. Nasal swabs were taken :—

- (a) from the butcher and two assistants (patients) who dressed the raw flesh ;
- (b) from two bakers who roasted the meat and put it into store ;
- (c) from two cooks (A and B) who handled the meat in store.

Meanwhile *staphylococcus aureus* had been cultured by the Pathologists from some 30 per cent. of stools of affected patients and shown by “ phage typing ” to be of mixed types, differing from each other and from the strain obtained from the organs of both the deceased. Two nasal swabs were returned as positive (Cooks A and B) but typing showed that :—

- Cook 'A'* Was carrier of an unimportant strain unrelated to those obtained from other sources ;
- Cook 'B'* from a crusted nasal sore yielded a *staphylococcus* of a type probably capable of causing food poisoning, but dissimilar from that isolated from the deceased patients.

It therefore appeared impossible to pursue this line of enquiry further and the only conclusions reached were :—

- (a) that an outbreak of food poisoning occurred on 4th March, 1956 ;
- (b) that this was due to “ *Staphylococcus Aureus*, ” although neither the symptoms nor their timing fitted this exactly if meat was the cause ;
- (c) that a possible vehicle of such infection could have been cold minced meat which had been stored under conditions of time and temperature favourable to toxin production ;
- (d) that no evidence existed to show if or how the meat was infected.

Mr. R. Short and the Medical Officer of Health were in-

structed to give evidence at the resumed inquest on 22nd March, when a Coroner's Jury after a long hearing returned a verdict of death by misadventure due to Food Poisoning.

Perusal of the hospital's records later suggested that 45 cases was an over-estimate and that perhaps not more than 20 persons had a definite illness of food poisoning type. A report making some observations regarding kitchen hygiene, was transmitted to the Hospital's Management Committee for their attention. This Committee also had to consider allegations made by Cook (B) that bad meat had been given to him on March 4th 1956, and on other occasions previously, to mince for patients. These allegations, which had received headline treatment in the press, were found to be without substance and this cook's employment at the hospital ceased.

The Rural District Council's report to the hospital authorities recommended modernisation of the kitchens and improved toilet accommodation for kitchen staff. These suggestions were accepted with an expression of thanks from the Hospital Management Committee for the help and advice of the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspectors.

F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Incidence of Major Infectious Diseases since 1949.

| | | Smallpox. | Diphtheria. | Scarlet Fever. | Enteric Fever. | Pneumonia. | Anterior Poliomyelitis | Puerperal Pyrexia. |
|------|-----|-----------|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1949 | ... | — | 3 | 18 | — | 6 | 2 | 1 |
| 1950 | ... | — | 1 | 6 | — | 33 | 1 | — |
| 1951 | ... | — | 1 | 4 | 1 | 52 | 4 | 1 |
| 1952 | ... | — | — | 27 | — | 17 | — | — |
| 1953 | ... | — | — | 29 | — | 38 | 4 | — |
| 1954 | ... | — | — | 10 | — | 18 | — | — |
| 1955 | ... | — | — | 20 | 4 | 22 | — | — |
| 1956 | ... | — | — | 23 | — | 29 | — | — |

Reference to Table III will give the age distribution of the cases notified during 1956.

There was little change in the incidence of notifiable forms of pneumonia. Scarlet fever was more prevalent again and there were 23 notified cases of which three needed hospital treatment.

Immunization.—This year's figures show that a high acceptance rate was obtained for Diphtheria Immunization Altogether 272 children were immunized against whooping cough under the County Council's scheme. This is an increase of 27 over last year.

Diphtheria Immunization.

| | | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 | 1955 | 1956 |
|--------------------|-----|------|------|------|------|------|
| Children immunized | | | | | | |
| under 5 years | ... | 142 | 145 | 248 | 269 | 275 |
| Children immunized | | | | | | |
| 5 to 15 years | ... | 17 | 16 | 37 | 27 | 20 |
| Children receiving | | | | | | |
| Reinforcing (or | | | | | | |
| Booster) doses | ... | 258 | 129 | 295 | 301 | 295 |

TUBERCULOSIS.

| Age Periods | New Cases | | | | Transfers into District | | | | Deaths | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|----|---------------|----|----------------------------|----|--------------|----|----------------|----|--------------|----|
| | Pul- monary | | Non.- Pul. | | Pul- monary | | Non- Pul. | | Pul- monary | | Non- Pul. | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 0 ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1-5 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5-10 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 10-15 | — | 2 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 15-20 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 20-25 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 2 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 25-35 | 5 | — | — | — | — | 4 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| 35-45 | 8 | — | — | — | 2 | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 45-55 | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | — |
| 55-65 | 3 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | — |
| 65 & upwards | 7 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 3 | — | — | — |
| | 28 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 1 | — | 7 | — | — | — |

The following table shows the incidence of Tuberculosis in the Warwick Rural District during the past 20 years :—

| | | 1937 | 1938 | 1939 | 1940 | 1941 | 1942 | 1943 |
|--------|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Cases | ... | 20 | 20 | 23 | 18 | 27 | 12 | 22 |
| Deaths | ... | 6 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 4 |
| | | 1944 | 1945 | 1946 | 1947 | 1948 | 1949 | 1950 |
| Cases | ... | 11 | 26 | 19 | 22 | 22 | 26 | 26 |
| Deaths | ... | 4 | 4 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 2 |

| | | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 | 1955 | 1956 |
|--------|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Cases | ... | 28 | 28 | 30 | 33 | 46 | 55 |
| Deaths | ... | 3 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 7 |

During the year there were 55 notifications of tuberculosis. 50 were pulmonary and 5 other forms of tuberculosis. 15 of the total were transfers into the district.

These figures again show the trend noted in last year's report *i.e.* for the total of notified cases to rise (notwithstanding a fall in the percentage of deaths per hundred) and be drawn from middle age groups.

Sanatorium.—During the year 15 patients were admitted to the Sanatorium and 10 were discharged. In addition 43 persons received BCG Vaccination.

The Mass X-Ray Unit again visited the Leamington area in 1956. As an experiment it was arranged to hold sessions at the Village Halls in Whitnash and Broadway, Cubbington, so as to meet the convenience of local residents. The response was very disappointing as only 118 persons attended at Cubbington and 139 at Whitnash. This disposed, however, of excuses, previously heard, that it was too far to go to attend at the Unit when stationed centrally in the Borough of Leamington Spa.

MILK SUPPLIES.

During 1956 the County Council's sampling officers took 11 samples of Tuberculin Tested milk and 29 samples of ungraded milk for biological examination. One positive was obtained from the latter group. In the course of the resulting investigation 44 cows were examined by a Veterinary Surgeon and 11 diagnostic milk samples taken. Two cows were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order and one cow was removed from the herd during investigations.

It was not necessary to restrict the sale of any milk as it was already sent for pasteurization.

The following table is compiled from information supplied by the courtesy of the County Medical Officer of Health.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955—SECTION 31

Tuberculous Milk Investigations—Routine Milk Samples for Biological Examination during the year 1956.

| <i>Designation of Milk.</i> | <i>Total No. of Samples</i> | <i>No. Positive</i> |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Pasteurised | — | — |
| “ Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) ” | — | — |
| “ Tuberculin Tested ” | 11 | — |
| Non-Designated | 28 | 1 |

Results of investigations of infected milk during the year 1956.

| <i>Number of</i> | <i>Cases found on routine sampling in the County</i> | <i>Cases reported by neighbouring County Authorities</i> |
|---|--|--|
| 1. Investigations | 1 | Nil |
| 2. Cows examined | 44 | Nil |
| 3. Milk samples for diagnos- tic purposes | 11 | Nil |
| 4. Cows slaughtered under Tuberculosis Order | 2 | Nil |
| 5. Cows removed from herds during investigations and which may have been infected | 1 | — |

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1947.

Four cases only were reported as lacking necessary care and attention as provided by Section 47 of the above Act.

Case 1.—Mr. S—. Aged 89. This old man lived at a remote cottage in an outlying hamlet. He had been ill with Bronchitis for 6 weeks and had received some kindnesses from his neighbours. They were, however, going to be away from home at Eastertide and unless he could be got to stay with his daughter, he would then be alone. It was, however, a 90-minute walk for the return journey across fields between this cottage and the nearest motor road. In his doctor's opinion he should have had hospital treatment. After enquiries had been made by the Area Welfare Officer, it was possible for a bed in hospital to be offered the same day.

Case 2.—Mr. H—. An old age pensioner who eked out his pension by part-time jobbing gardening. The case was referred by parish representatives and the Council authorized application before the Court if that proved necessary. The man was visited and both his person and the house were far from clean and his living conditions were truly miserable. However, he refused to enter Part III accommodation and action was deferred. Observation was kept over a period and little change arose. It was impossible to find a Home Help to attend this man.

Case 3.—Mr. M—. Aged 83. Pensioner. Had lived for years in condemned cottage at Cubbington and was occasionally helped by a niece. He spent much time loitering about the streets and gradually neglected himself more and more. Finally the house became unsound in structure and he had then to agree to go into one of the County Welfare homes for old people.

Case 4.—Miss T. H—. Aged 66 years. A solitary spinster who began to act as a hermit and neglect her household and personal care after receiving notice that her cottage was to form part of a clearance area. She lapsed into an almost animal condition and if not tended by friends in the village would have starved. The case was reported by the National Assistance Board and the Area Welfare Office. The County Health Visitor tried to supervise the case but this proved difficult as she would seldom open the door or receive visitors. It became clear as time went by that she was unsuitable for an ordinary hospital or welfare bed and that she was suffering from a depressive mental breakdown with steady deterioration. A doctor was called in by relatives but she was abusive and refused any examination or treatment. Observation continued at the end of the year.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

Mr. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS,

I beg to submit my report for the year ending December, 1956.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The Council have two cesspool emptiers and four refuse collection vehicles in service with a staff of seven drivers and 22 loaders.

Four of the refuse vehicles are of the large capacity compressor type. The collection is, as far as possible, once per fortnight, and is carried out by a staff of 22 men. The labour position has improved but it is still not possible to include farms and other isolated premises in the service, owing to increased demands from the expanding urban parts of the district.

The collection of nightsoil is once per week and cesspools are emptied upon request. One vehicle operates the nightsoil service and the other undertakes the emptying of cesspools. Appropriate charges are made for the latter service. The two machines are now fully staffed by five men. Towards the end of the year it was possible to extend the nightsoil collection to Norton Lindsey and Shrewley Common.

A van is provided for the foreman, who also does occasional light transport for other departments.

All refuse is disposed of by tipping. The principal tip used is at Cubbington.

A mechanical shovel on tracks is used to keep the tips level and tidy. This machine has proved invaluable in dealing with the large tip at Cubbington. A small tractor with a bulldozer blade is also occasionally used. The driver of these machines acts as reserve driver for the refuse vehicles in the absence of the regular men through illness and holidays.

Number of Vehicles

| | | | |
|------------------|---|---------------------|---|
| Refuse | 4 | Housing Repairs ... | 1 |
| Cesspool Emptier | 2 | Water Dept. ... | 2 |
| Tractors | 2 | Foreman | 1 |
| Rodent Operator | 1 | Spare lorry ... | 1 |

Temporary Housing.

This problem has now been reduced by the last "squatters" hut having been vacated and demolished. The problem is, however, by no means solved. There are still a number of war-time erections, some licensed as "temporary buildings" still in use, and the number of caravan dwellers is still numerous. The worst caravan site, known as Seaton's Field, is still with us, but as a result of a Court Order the number of caravans and other dwellings is being steadily reduced as the occupants find other accommodation.

Sanitary Services.

Water Supply : The following parishes have piped public water supplies :—

Baddesley Clinton, Baginton, Barford, Bishops Tachbrook, Cubbington, Hatton, Leek Wootton, Old Milverton (part), Radford Semele, Shrewley, Stoneleigh, Whitnash.

The following have piped private supplies :—

Ashow, Offchurch, Sherbourne.

A Public Inquiry has been held by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government into the Council's proposals for supplying the Western Area of the rural district. This scheme estimated to cost over £200,000 will utilize existing boreholes at Shrewley and Rowington for sources of water, and supply the following parishes :—

Lapworth, Rowington, Shrewley, Haseley, Beausale, Wroxall, Norton Lindsey, Sherbourne, and will link up with the Southern Area supply at Barford.

Sewage : The following parishes are sewered :—

Baginton, Barford, Bishops Tachbrook, Cubbington, Sherbourne, Stoneleigh, Whitnash, Radford Semele.

Inspection and Supervision of Food Premises.

Routine inspections have been made of food premises, shops and canteens, in the light of the Food and Drugs Act 1955, and the Food Hygiene Regulations made under that Act. One court case resulted from these inspections, while improvements have been secured at other premises.

Premises selling and manufacturing Ice Cream in the area have been the subject of special attention.

Meat Inspection.

The regular inspection of meat has been carried out during the year at the three licensed slaughterhouses in the district, and the details are as set out below :—

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

| | Cattle exclud- ing Cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep and Lambs | Pigs | Horses |
|--|----------------------------------|------|--------|-----------------------|------|--------|
| Number killed ... | 192 | — | 9 | 1,421 | 317 | — |
| Number inspected | 192 | — | 9 | 1,421 | 317 | — |
| <i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i> Whole carcasses condemned ... | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Carcases of which some part or or- gan was con- demned ... | 41 | — | — | 31 | 27 | — |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ... | 21.3% | — | — | 2.1% | 8.5% | — |
| <i>Tuberculosis only :</i> Whole carcasses condemned ... | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Carcases of which some part or or- gan was condemned | 9 | — | — | — | 5 | — |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ... | 4.6% | — | — | — | 1.5% | — |
| <i>Cysticercosis</i> Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ... | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Generalised and totally condemned | — | — | — | — | — | — |

Quantities of Meat Condemned :

| | | cwts. | qrs. | lbs. |
|------------------------------|-----|-------|------|------|
| Affected with Tuberculosis | ... | 1 | 3 | 22 |
| Affected with Other Diseases | ... | 5 | 1 | 25 |
| Total | ... | 7 | 1 | 9 |

Miscellaneous.

The Public Health Department is responsible for the supervision of repairs to the Council's houses, the supervision of Street Lighting, and the licensing of and supervision of petrol installations under the Petroleum Acts.

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|---------|-----|-------|
| Total number of houses built | ... | 1956 | ... | 440 |
| Number built by Council | ... | „ | ... | 59 |
| Number of plans submitted | ... | „ | ... | 460 |
| Number of dwellings | ... | (Total) | ... | 6,300 |

Rodent Control.

A Rodent Operative has been employed throughout the year. As a result of his activities the rat population has been reduced. All refuse tips and public sewers have had regular attention. No charge is made to householders for his services.

Yours faithfully,

E. A. LYNE,
Senior Public Health Inspector.

TABLE I.

WARWICK RURAL DISTRICT.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY INSPECTORS'
DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1956.

| | Inspections and observations made. | Notices served. | | Nuisances abated after notice. |
|---|---|-----------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| | | Statu- tory. | In- formal. | |
| Dwelling Houses and Schools | 1071 | — | 73 | 57 |
| Dairies, Milk Shops and Cow- sheds | 2 | — | — | — |
| Bakehouses | 9 | — | 1 | 1 |
| Slaughterhouses and Butchers' shops | 343 | — | — | — |
| Food Preparation Premises ... | 12 | — | — | — |
| Deposits of Refuse and Manure | 10 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| House Drainage | 88 | 1 | 18 | 15 |
| Water Supply | 121 | — | 12 | 10 |
| Pigsties | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Smoke Nuisances | — | — | — | — |
| Factories | 36 | — | 2 | 2 |
| Shops | 14 | — | 2 | 2 |
| Pools, Ditches, etc. | 24 | — | 14 | 11 |
| Dangerous Buildings... .. | 11 | — | 2 | 2 |
| Infectious Diseases | 21 | — | — | — |
| Moveable Dwellings | 107 | — | — | — |
| Petroleum Acts | 8 | — | — | — |
| Miscellaneous Matters | 43 | — | — | — |
| Totals | 1926 | 4 | 126 | 104 |

TABLE II.
WARWICK RURAL DISTRICT.
VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1956 AND PREVIOUS
YEARS.

| YEAR. | Population estimated to Middle of each Year. | BIRTHS. | | NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT. | | | |
|-------|--|---------|-------------|--|-----------------------------|--------------|-------|
| | | Nett. | | Under 1 Year of age. | | At all Ages. | |
| | | Number. | Crude Rate. | Number. | Rate per 1,000 Nett Births. | Number. | Rate. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1948 | 19,730 | 285 | 14.5 | 7 | 25 | 156 | 7.9 |
| 1949 | 19,420 | 265 | 13.6 | 15 | 57 | 184 | 9.5 |
| 1950 | 19,670 | 269 | 13.6 | 11 | 41 | 186 | 7.9 |
| 1951 | 19,940 | 238 | 11.9 | 6 | 25 | 177 | 8.9 |
| 1952 | 19,350 | 299 | 15.5 | 8 | 27 | 159 | 8.2 |
| 1953 | 19,280 | 311 | 16.0 | 4 | 12.9 | 297 | 15.4 |
| 1954 | 19,600 | 316 | 16.1 | 10 | 31.6 | 323 | 16.5 |
| 1955 | 20,570 | 338 | 16.4 | 9 | 26.6 | 343 | 16.7 |
| 1956 | 22,360 | 357 | 15.9 | 4 | 11.2 | 343 | 15.3 |

VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1956.
ENGLAND AND WALES.

*Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality during the Year 1956.
(Provisional Figures).*

Annual Rate per 1,000 Population.

| | | Live Births. | Still Births per 1,000 Births. | Deaths under Deaths, one year to 1,000 Births. |
|-------------------|-----|--------------|--------------------------------|--|
| England and Wales | ... | 15.7 | 23.0 | 11.7 23.8 |

TABLE III.

WARWICK RURAL DISTRICT.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR,
1956.

| NOTIFIABLE DISEASE. | Number of Cases notified. | | | | | | | | Total cases removed to Hospital. |
|---|---------------------------|----------------|---------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | At all Ages. | At Ages—Years. | | | | | | | |
| | | Under 1. | 1 to 5. | 5 to 15. | 15 to 25. | 25 to 45. | 45 to 65. | 65 and upwards. | |
| Small-pox ... .. | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Plague ... .. | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Croup) ... .. | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Erysipelas | 3 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 2 | 1 | ..... |
| Scarlet Fever | 23 | ..... | 2 | 16 | 4 | 1 | ..... | ..... | 3 |
| Typhus Fever ... .. | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Enteric Fever ... .. | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Pneumonia | 29 | ..... | ..... | 1 | ..... | 5 | 12 | 11 | ..... |
| Malaria ... .. | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Dysentery | 21 | ..... | 2 | 5 | 2 | ..... | 6 | 6 | ..... |
| Puerperal Pyrexia ... .. | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Meningococcal Infection ... .. | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis) ... .. | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Whooping Cough | 49 | 6 | 11 | 32 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 |
| Encephalitis Lethargica ... .. | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... .. | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Measles | 5 | ..... | 3 | 1 | 1 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis | 36 | ..... | ..... | 3 | 6 | 13 | 6 | 8 | ..... |
| Other forms of Tuberculosis | 4 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 4 | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Food Poisoning | 35 | ..... | 2 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 1 | 19 | ..... |
| Totals | 205 | 6 | 20 | 61 | 14 | 32 | 27 | 45 | 4 |

TABLE IV.
WARWICK RURAL DISTRICT.
CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1956.

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | MALES. | FEMALES. |
|---|--------|----------|
| 1 Tuberculosis, respiratory | 7 | — |
| 2 Tuberculosis, other | — | — |
| 3 Syphilitic disease | — | — |
| 4 Diphtheria | — | — |
| 5 Whooping cough | — | — |
| 6 Meningococcal infections | — | — |
| 7 Acute poliomyelitis | — | — |
| 8 Measles | — | — |
| 9 Other infective and parasitic diseases | — | 2 |
| 10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach | 2 | 2 |
| 11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ... | 17 | 4 |
| 12 Malignant neoplasm, breast | — | 1 |
| 13 Malignant neoplasm, uterus | — | 3 |
| 14 Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms | 14 | 8 |
| 15 Leukaemia, aleukaemia | — | 1 |
| 16 Diabetes | 1 | 1 |
| 17 Vascular lesions of nervous system ... | 13 | 23 |
| 18 Coronary disease, angina | 18 | 15 |
| 19 Hypertension with heart disease ... | 2 | 6 |
| 20 Other heart disease | 22 | 21 |
| 21 Other circulatory disease | 9 | 9 |
| 22 Influenza | 1 | 5 |
| 23 Pneumonia | 19 | 32 |
| 24 Bronchitis | 8 | 5 |
| 25 Other disease of respiratory system ... | 7 | 3 |
| 26 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ... | 3 | — |
| 27 Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ... | — | 2 |
| 28 Nephritis and nephrosis | — | 5 |
| 29 Hyperplasia of prostate | — | — |
| 30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ... | — | — |
| 31 Congenital malformations | 1 | — |
| 32 Other defined and ill-defined diseases | 18 | 15 |
| 33 Motor vehicle accidents | 3 | 1 |
| 34 All other accidents | 5 | 6 |
| 35 Suicide | 2 | 1 |
| 36 Homicide and operations of war ... | — | — |
| All causes | 172 | 171 |

